

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 181715Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5638

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN IR

SUBJ: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT TEHRAN

REF: (A) DELHI 7624; (B) DELHI 8238

1. TIMES OF INDIA REPORTED IN AN EXCLUSIVE STORY JULY 18 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH WOULD TRAVEL TO TEHRAN JULY 19 FOR TALKS WITH THE SHAH. THE PAPER SAID THE VISIT MIGHT BE "THE BEGINNING OF A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO FORGE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAN", AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CARRYING A MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. THE VISIT IS EXPECTED TO LAST THREE DAYS. THE PAPER NOTED THAT THE SHAH'S ASSURANCES IN A TIMES OF INDIA INTERVIEW (REF A) CONCERNING IRANIAN ARMS NOT BEING USED TO HELP PAKISTAN UNLESS IT WAS ATTACKED HAD PAVED THE WAY FOR A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE, BUT IT ALSO MENTIONED INDIA'S CONCERN OVER THE "MASSIVE SOPHISTICATED ARMORY" BEING PURCHASED BY IRAN.

2. COMMENT: THE SWARAN SINGH VISIT APPARENTLY GREW OUT OF THE INITIATIVES REPORTED IN REF B. WE KNOW GIRILAL JAIND DID SEE BOTH

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FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER AND FOUND THEM BOTH RECEPTIVE

TO THE IDEA OF A NEW INDIAN INITIATIVE. WE ASSUME ONE REASON FOR

THE SPEEDY INDIAN ACTION IS TO TRY TO MEET WITH THE SHAH BEFORE HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE IRANIAN CHARGE' HERE, KAZEM SHIVA, WAS NOT INFORMED OF THE VISIT IN ADVANCE OF THE PRESS REPORT. HE SPECULATED THAT MRS. GANDHI'S LETTER MIGHT CONTAIN AN INVITATION TO THE SHAH TO VISIT INDIA, OSTENSIBLY IN RETURN FOR PRESIDENT GIRI'S BRIEF VISIT TO TEHRAN ON JULY 10 LAST YEAR. (FYI THE SHAH LAST VISITED INDIA IN JANUARY 1969. END FYI).

MOYNIHAN

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